



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,750	07/27/2001	Kwong Heng Kwok	PA000011	9079

7590 03/03/2004
THOMSON multimedia Licensing Inc.
Patent Operations
P.O. Box 5312
Two Independence Way
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER

OLSON, JASON C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2651

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,750

Applicant(s)

KWOK, KWONG HENG

Examiner

Jason C Olson

Art Unit

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on PreAmdt.A filed on 7/27/2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: misspelled word. On page 7, line 24 the word "opposite" is misspelled. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masuda et al. (5448427).

Regarding claim 1, Masuda et al. teaches a process for controlling a capstan in a tape recorder/reproducer by first driving a capstan (see col. 4, ln. 40-41) in a backward direction for a period of time (see col. 3, ln. 51-55; col. 4, ln. 50-55, and illustrated in figure 6, items 39, 40, 17, and 18. The Examiner notes that "backward" is a relative term for direction and takes the position that when the capstan rotates in a counter-clockwise direction it is moving in a backward direction. Furthermore, as it is depicted in figure 4, when the capstan moves in a backward direction, the tape moves in a second direction from say, the start of (n-2)th Group to the start of the (n+2)th Group.); driving the capstan in a forward direction for a period of time (see col. 3, ln. 55-61; col. 4, ln. 50-55, and illustrated in figure 6, items 39, 40, 17, and 18. The

Art Unit: 2651

Examiner notes that "forward" is a relative term for direction and takes the position that when the capstan rotates in a clockwise direction it is moving in a forward direction. Furthermore, as it is depicted in figure 4, when the capstan moves in a forward direction, the tape moves in a first direction from say, the start of (n+2)th Group to the start of the (n-1)th Group.); the capstan current is nullified (see col. 6, ln. 12-19 and as depicted in figure 4 at STOP and in figure 9 which illustrates the that the capstan motor is stopped during normal STOP mode.).

Regarding claim 2, claim 2 has limitations similar to those treated in the above rejection(s), and is met by the references as discussed above. Claim 2 however also recites the following limitations: controlling a capstan by rotating a capstan in a first direction (as Masuda et al, illustrates in figure 6, items 39, 40, 17, and 18, which depicts the capstan controlling the tape movement, and Figure 4, which depicts the tape being moved by the capstan from say, the start of (n+1)th Group to the start of the (n-2)th Group).

Regarding claims 3-7, ranges of time periods are not considered patentable subject matter because it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation (see *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955)).

Regarding claim 9, a capstan motor is driven in a backward direction for a period of time; the capstan motor is driven in a forward direction for a period of time (see col. 4, ln. 52-61, furthermore, it is known to an artisan in the art that the direction or sign of the drive current determines the directional spin of the motor.).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 10 is allowed. The prior art fails to teach alone or in combination controlling a capstan following the successive steps of rotating the capstan in a first direction; when a first predetermined period of time has elapsed after a control pulse is detected by the control pulse sensor, applying a torque to the capstan in a second direction opposite the first direction for a second predetermined period of time; applying a torque to the capstan in the first direction for a third predetermined period of time; nullifying the motor current.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Walsh (6275348) is cited for a magnetic tape apparatus and method. Bar (6057973) is cited for a method of seeking to tape segment without the use of inter-segment gap. Kubota (4255768) is cited for tracking control apparatus for a rotary head, variable speed signal reproduction system. Choi et al. (5724202) is cited for Mode reset method and apparatus for magnetic recording/reproduction apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason C Olson whose telephone number is 703.305.8325. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7:30-5:30; alternate Fridays.


Art Unit: 2651

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R Hudspeth can be reached on (703)308-4825. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JCO

February 24, 2004


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600